



April 2007

"EMS Currents"

Sacramento Metro Fire District's EMS Division Newsletter...Will you make a difference today?

Special Interest Articles:

- EMS Coordinator Survey
- Impacted Hospitals
- Paramedic Academy
- Drug Boxes
- FYI...

"It is a fine thing to be honest, but it is also very important to be right."

Winston Churchill

April Dates:

- 1st April Fools Day
- 2nd Passover Begins
- 6th Good Friday
- 8th Easter Sunday
- 22nd Earth Day
- 25th Admin Day
- 27th Arbor Day



EMS Coordinator...

By: Steve Cantelme

The EMS Coordinator surveys are due by the end of March and will be published soon thereafter. As of March 27th the survey results are as follows:

- ✓ 238 surveys returned by Metro personnel
- ✓ 146 recommended the position be maintained
- ✓ 18 recommended the position be discontinued
- ✓ 74 expressed no opinion
- ✓ 8 dispatchers & 4 hospital surveys returned - all in favor of maintaining the position

Of those expressing an opinion, 89% are in favor of the position & 11% opposed to the position. As a percentage of all surveys returned by Metro personnel, 61% are in favor of the position, 8% opposed and 31% expressed no opinion. The final results will be provided to the Fire Chief on April 3rd for his review and published for your review soon thereafter.

Impacted Hospitals.....continued

By EMS Staff

Per hospital council agreement, anytime all of the hospitals in a single zone are closed, they all are required to open. Fire Dispatch monitors hospital closures and changes their status to "open but impacted" when triggered by the zone closure.

This policy requires the affected hospitals to open and remain open for a period of two hours and can be found in the hospitals' EM system under the section titled "Policies". If you are questioned regarding this policy by uninformed hospital staff, please refer them to their own EM system and reference the policy section for this written policy.

Remember to contact your EMS Coordinator through your chain of command whenever you have issues with physicians or nurses at any of the local hospitals.

**"If I were two-faced,
would I be wearing
this one?"**

Abraham Lincoln

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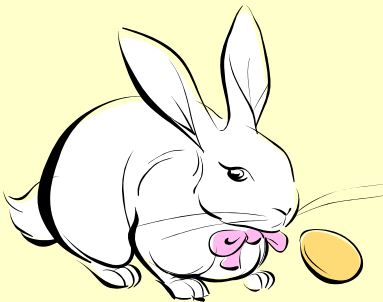
Program/Education)

EMS Coordinators, (Operations)

- **Randy Hein A Shift**
- **Bob Bruce B Shift**
- **Tim Maybee C Shift**

**Kristina Freas, MICN Medical
Advisor**

**Hernando Garzon, MD Medical
Advisor**



The Easter Bunny can be traced back to the Teutonic pagan celebration of Estere or Asarte. It is in connection with this festival and because of its prolific nature that the pagan adherents looked to the hare as a symbol of fertility. During this celebration, eggs were believed to have come from the hare as a symbol of a new, abundant spring.

Paramedic Academy

By: Craig Henderson

The pre-requisites for the paramedic academy started in March with nine incumbents and seven probationary FF's attending the class for a total of sixteen Metro Fire employees. The calculations class started off the program, followed by a four-week A & P class in June. The actual didactic portion of the paramedic class does not start until July and will continue through September. They will then transition to the hospitals for their clinical internship. Look for them to be back on-line for their field internships in early to mid December. This is the first class to include incumbents so we wish them all success.

Drug Boxes

By: EMS Staff

The new plastic drug boxes should be arriving in your stations by April 1st. The box is a rigid, clear plastic box that houses the old plastic box. As you know, the old box could be opened without breaking the seal by prying the edge of the lid open and shaking the contents out. The box inside of a box makes it difficult to access the contents of the inner box without breaking the security seal on the outer box and since both boxes are clear they continue to allow for visibility.

Along with the new boxes comes a new security seal that tightens for better security and doesn't break with movement inside the large drug boxes. The old seal had a tendency to break and therefore did not provide enough security. This new seal has a slightly greater tensile rating so consequently it may take slightly more force to break.

FYI

- An RFP went out last month for a new electronic RMS program for EMS. This program includes an interface with Firehouse so that the two databases can share information.
- An RFP is planned to go out early this month for Power Gurneys. The purchase of the gurneys will not take place until after the end of this fiscal year and thus will be purchased with FY 2007-2008 budget money.
- An RFP is also planned for April for the stair chairs. Purchasing of the stair chairs should be completed by the end of this fiscal year.